

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/673,451

Examiner

D. I. Lee

Applicant(s)

OKAMOTO ET AL.

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/3/05 (Amdt) and 8/31/05 (PTO-413).
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 9-14.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/857,271.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 6/2005
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 050906.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

D. I. Lee
Primary Examiner
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DETAILED ACTION

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the Amendment filed 03 August 2005.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 9-14 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Hoshino discloses a method of checking sheet (i.e., a document) as to forgery thereof, said sheet being provided with memory or data storage (an optical code such as a magnetic strip or a bar code) from in which information can be read out or written and the sheet further includes an additional information on the sheet (i.e., a predetermined visible indication data such as figures, characters, symbols, etc.). The system encrypts the visible information of the sheet and stores the encrypted visible information in the optical code, and determines discriminatively authenticity of the sheet on the basis of the visible information of the sheet and the information stored in the optical code.

Hiroya discloses a sheet having an electronic circuit chip for storing the information.

Naccache [EP 583 709, newly cited by the Applicant] discloses a system for detecting forgery of a card, the system including a reader as a forgery detecting device including a scanner, a smart card chip reader, and a processor. The card including ferrite particles, which the information of the ferrite particles is obtainable by the scanner of the reader and an electronic circuit chip which stores the encrypted unique number of the ferrite particle of the card (e.g., using a Robin's signature scheme) obtainable by a smart card chip reader. The smart card chip reader reading out the stored unique number from the electronic circuit chip provided in the sheet, the scanning unit acquiring the information obtainable by the scanning unit, by scanning the sheet, and the processor of reader comparing the unique information unique to the

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sheet obtained from the electronic circuit chip with the information obtained by scanning the sheet to discriminatively determine whether the information acquired from the sheet is authentic.

Muramatsu [JP 05-174207, newly cited by the Applicant] discloses a collating device, as an IC card forgery detecting device including a magnetic head, an IC module reader and writer. The card includes a random pattern formed by a magnetic material which is read by a magnetic head of the collating device and its data is written in a memory of the IC card. At the time of use, the collating device determine the validity of the correspondent of a base material and the IC module is confirmed by reading the random pattern and collating with the data stored in the memory of the card.

One of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify the teachings of Hoshino, Hiroya, Naccache, and Muramatsu, alone or in combination with other references, in order to provide a system that detecting forgery of a sheet, which includes a forgery detecting device having a control unit, a scanning unit, and a discriminating unit, wherein the forgery detecting device and memory device which are connected via a network, wherein the memory device storing unique information correlated with said unique number of the sheet, said unique information being unique to said sheet, said electronic circuit chip or a combination of the sheet and the electronic circuit chip, said forgery detecting device including a control unit, a scanning unit and a discriminating unit, wherein the discriminating unit of the forgery detecting device discriminatively determine the authenticity of the sheet by comparing the information obtained by the scanning the sheet, which is also stored in the electronic circuit chip of the sheet, with the unique information obtained from the memory device through the network connection, as set forth in the claim.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the

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issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to D. I. Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-2399. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 5:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on (571) 272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 517-273-3800.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



D. I. Lee
Primary Examiner
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